



Kevin Murray
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SB 145 (Murray)

Political Reform Act of 1974: Officeholder expenses

ISSUE:

The Political Reform Act of 1974 recognizes officeholder expenses as legitimate expenses associated with holding office. These legitimate expenses include:

- Communicating with constituents
- Attending and sponsoring community events
- Travel
- Charitable donations to worthy causes
- Sponsoring or taking stands on ballot measures
- Legal and accounting fees

While an elected official may be termed-out and not seeking future office, the need to pay for legitimate expenses associated with holding office remains. Under current law, termed-out elected officials are treated unequally by being prevented from raising money to pay for legitimate expenses. Non termed-out elected officials are not subject to this prohibition of fund raising since they are able to use money in their campaign committees for future office to pay for these expenses.

SOLUTION:

This bill would amend the Political Reform Act of 1974 to allow elected officials to accept contributions to pay for legitimate expenses associated with holding office. It would give termed-out elected officials equal and fair treatment under the law with respect to legitimate officeholder expenses.

SPONSOR:

Senator Kevin Murray.